

Message Text

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62

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 EUR-12 /023 W

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R 121531Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4363

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MZ

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO JERALD JOHNSON

REQUEST CONGEN PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR DE PREE
TO MR. JERALD JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WORLD MISSIONS,
CHURCH OF NAZARENE, WHO IS STAYING AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL
HOTEL, FRANKFURT, FROM MARCH 13 TO 17.

QUOTE: DEAR MR. JOHNSON:

I AM SORRY I WAS NOT ABLE TO GET A MESSAGE TO YOU IN LISBON,
BUT DID NOT ARRIVE IN MAPUTO UNTIL MARCH 10 AND EMBASSY COM-
MUNICATIONS WERE OUT OF ORDER AT THE TIME.

SINCE I HAVE NOT YET PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF MOZAMBIQUE, I HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE
MATTER OF THE DETAINED MISSIONARIES WITH MOZAMBIQUE GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALS. I HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE BY
MY STAFF. WE ARE TOLD BY VISITORS TO THE MISSIONARIES THAT THE
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF ALL THREE IS STILL GOOD. FRIENDS CONTINUE
TO BRING FOOD TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR PRISONNDIET. THE MENTAL STATE
OF THE MISSIONARIES IS SAID TO BE QUITE GOOD, WITH ONLY AN
OCCASIONAL INDICATION THAT THEIR ORDEAL MAY BE PRODUCING SOME
STRAIN. THROUGH FRIENDS, THEY ARE AWARE THAT THE US GOVERN-
MENT AND OTHERS ARE CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS TO EFFECT THEIR
RELEASE.

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YOU WILL RECALL FROM OUR CONVERSATION IN WASHINGTON THAT NATIONALS

OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ARE BEING DETAINED. THE CONCERN OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, AS WELL AS OUR OWN, HAS PROMPTED THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ON BEHALF OF THE CORPS, TO REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE AS A PRIORITY MATTER TO GRANT CONSULAR ACCESS TO THE PRISONERS. THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE WAS PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE ONLY WITHIN THE PAST WEEK AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE HAS NOT YET RESPONDED. UNTIL IT DOES, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU NOT PUBLICIZE THIS INITIATIVE, SINCE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MIGHT IRRITATE THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE AND DIMINISH CHANCES OF A FAVORABLE RESPONSE.

I HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROS AND CONS OF YOUR PROPOSED VISIT WITH MY STAFF. OUR CONSIDERED RECOMMENDATION IS THAT YOU NOT COME AT THIS TIME, SINCE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THOSE KEY INDIVIDUALS WHOSE CONCURRENCE WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE MISSIONARIES' RELEASE.

I SUGGEST THAT YOU DEFER MAKING A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE UNTIL WE SEE WHAT MAY COME FROM THE JOINT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE AND UNTIL I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE MATTER OF THE DETENTIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH I INTEND TO DO AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

I WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF OUR EFFORTS, AND WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT COME TO YOUR ATTENTION OR ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE AS TO HOW WE MIGHT PROCEED.

SINCERELY, WILLARD DE PREE
END QUOTE.
DE PREE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MAPUTO000240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760096-0590
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760367/aaaacgwh.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE TO JERALD JOHNSON REQUEST CONGEN PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR DE PREE
TAGS: CASC, MZ, (JOHNSON, JERALD)
To: FRANKFURT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006